cargo of sugar ever brought here, and greatly overstocked the market in all this part of the country.a

Jacksonville in 1835 was probably a place of 250 people, far too small in itself to warrant the establishment of a bank and a newspaper, or even to think about building a million dollar railroad; but settled all around, both up and down the river, were men wealthy for that day, who transacted their commercial and legal business here, and it was their support as well as the progressive spirit of the citizens of Jacksonville that inspired these important measures. They were drawn into the whirl of enthusiasm and speculation that was sweeping the country about that time and which ended in the panic of 1837-40.

Great Freeze of 1835

February 8, 1835, was the coldest day ever known, before or since, in this section. At 8 o'clock that morning the thermometer stood at 8 degrees above zero, Fahrenheit, and the actual minimum was undoubtedly lower. Along the river bank the water was frozen several rods from the shore and afforded the inhabitants a spectacle as new as it was distressing. Fruit trees of every description were destroyed, roots and all, and even some of the forest trees were killed by the cold. This freeze is the basis for all subsequent comparisons.b

Bibliography, Chapter VI

a Webb's History of Florida; b Acts of Territorial Council; c Jacksonville Tri-weekly Sun. Feb. 19, 1876; d Copies are still in existence; e Records in possession of Weather Bureau.